

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled).

8. (New) A method for triggering a two-stage belt tensioner, comprising:

triggering a first stage of the belt tensioner; and

triggering a second stage of the belt tensioner as a function of a crash severity and a sitting position, the crash severity being determined by at least one signal derived from an acceleration ascertained during a collision, and the sitting position determining an evaluation of the at least one signal.

9. (New) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein, if the crash severity indicates a hard crash, the second stage is triggered after a specified time following the triggering of the first stage.

10. (New) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein, if the crash severity indicates a soft crash, the second stage is triggered as a function of a signal pattern of the at least one signal.

11. (New) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the second stage is triggered with the second airbag stage.

12. (New) The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

triggering a knee airbag simultaneously with the second stage belt tensioner.

13. (New) A triggering device comprising:

a control unit configured to trigger a first stage of a two-stage belt tensioner, the device further configured to trigger a second stage to the belt tensioner as a function of a crash severity and a sitting position, the crash severity being determined by at least one signal derived from an acceleration ascertained during a collision and the sitting position determining an evaluation of the at least one signal.

14. (New) The triggering device as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
an external crash sensor to determine the acceleration.